

Commission News

www.mswcc.ms.gov

680 Monroe Street, Suite B, Jackson, MS

Tel. 601.354.7645

Fax. 601.354.6628

MSWCC offers education, training throughout State

JACKSON—The Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission reminds everyone that we are available to conduct educational programs and training in your districts.

During fiscal year 2018, Commission staff assisted with field days, workshops, seminars and assorted education and conservation activities, reaching 39,572 participants. We provided training to 729 district commissioners, deputy commissioners and district employees, and participated in 168 commissioner meetings.

Our staff is available to assist you in these activities and more. Our educational programs include:

- Sam E. Soil, a walking, talking soil sample that teaches students the importance of soil and conservation;
- The Soil Tunnel, a 16-foot x 16-foot x 10-foot high inflatable educational aid, which can be reserved through Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission



MSWCC Field Rep. Lance Middleton demonstrates the Enviroscope at a Field Day in Harrison County.

and your local SWCD, and set up on-site by MSWCC personnel;

- The Enviroscope for urban agricultural and coastal environments, which explains soil layers, drainage, storm water runoff, nonpoint source, or NPS pollution and prevention; and the impact of land use on soil, soil organisms and conservation;
- The Incredible Journey brings the water cycle to life, with students representing water molecules and traveling to nine different stations in the environment.

To schedule a Commission representative to speak or present at your event, please contact the MSWCC Field Representative in your area.

To schedule Sam E. Soil and/or the soil tunnel to visit your local Soil and Water Conservation District, please call:

MSWCC Education Specialist Chelsey Gazaway at (662) 647-8847, ext. 103, or MSWCC Branch Director Clay Burns at (601) 354-7645, ext. 304.

Farmers, agribusiness push Congress to finish new farm bill

WASHINGTON, D.C. – More than 150 farm and agribusiness organizations have appealed to congressional farm bill negotiators to finish their work quickly.

In a letter to the House and Senate Agriculture committees, the group asks for a 5-year farm bill to reconcile the bills' differences and pass a conference report so the new bill can be

enacted into law. before the Sept. 30 expiration of the current farm bill. "Americans must have a five-year farm bill ahead of the September 30 expiration of the Agricultural Act of 2014," the groups said in a letter dated Aug. 13, 2018, to leaders of the House and Senate Agriculture committees. Farmers "need a strong and predictable safety net

that includes important risk management tools such as crop insurance to weather these difficult economic times. They cannot afford a short-term extension," the letter says.

Much of the 2014 farm bill expires Sept. 30, but crop insurance is permanently authorized and commodity programs generally remain in effect for a commodity's marketing year.

IN BRIEF

Rice Tasting Luncheon set for Sept. 14 in Cleveland

The 28th annual Delta Rice Tasting Luncheon, sponsored by Delta Rice Promotions, Inc., will take place Sept. 14 at Delta State University Walter Sillers Coliseum, Cleveland, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased from the Extension Service office of Bolivar County by calling (662) 843-8371, or at the door.

Clarke Co. Forestry & Wildlife Festival Sept. 22

Clarke County Forestry & Wildlife Festival-Sat., Sept. 22, 2018, Archusa Water Park in Quitman, MS (Clarke Co.), with a bow shoot, bass tournament, arts & crafts, food and music. For more information, call (601) 917-7756.

Fall Flower & Garden Fest Oct 12-13 in Crystal Springs

The Fall Flower & Garden Fest will be held Oct. 12-13 at the Truck Crops Experiment Station in Crystal Springs, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. both days.

Food vendors will have food and drinks available for purchase.

For more information, contact a MS County Extension Service office, or call (601) 892-3731.

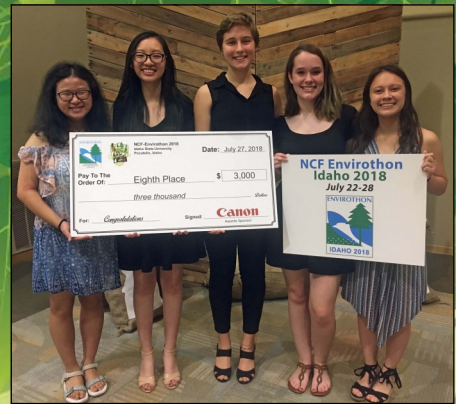
Great Delta Bear Affair to take place Oct. 27

The Great Delta Bear Affair will take place on Oct. 27 in Rolling Fork.

For more information, call (662) 873-6261 or visit www.greatdeltabearaffair.org.

MISSISSIPPI ENVIROTHON

**JOIN A TEAM AND
COMPETE TO WIN
AWARDS AND
SCHOLARSHIPS!**



What is Envirothon?

- ◆ **An Environmental Education Competition** — the largest in Mississippi — in which teams are tested in five knowledge areas: *Soils/Land Use, Aquatic Ecology, Wildlife, Forestry and a Current Issue.*
- ◆ **The Competition:** Five-member teams of students in grades 9-12 prepare with an advisor to take hands-on 30-minute written tests in the five knowledge areas at the competition.
- ◆ **Top teams win awards and scholarships.**

How do I get started?

Talk to your advisor at your school or local FFA chapter to find out more, or call Chelsey Gazaway at 662-647-8857.

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Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission

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EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Dr. Gary Jackson
Director, MSU-ES
Mississippi State, MS

Dr. George Hopper
Director, M.A.F.E.S.
Mississippi State, MS

www.mswcc.ms.gov



Mississippi Soil & Water
Conservation Commission
680 Monroe Street, Suite B
Jackson, MS 39202
Office: 601-354-7645
Fax: 601-354-6628
website: www.mswcc.ms.gov
Kathy Dougan, MSWCC
Public Relations Director
kdougan@mswcc.ms.gov